



Read Aloud-Think Aloud Questions
A Bad Case of Stripes
by David Shannon

Questions About the Cover and Predictions [show cover]

- What do you notice about the cover?
- How do you think the girl on the cover is feeling?
- What clues does the title give you?
- What do you predict will happen in this story?
- Open to the title page. There are beans scattered around the title. Why do you think these might be there?

Comprehension Questions During the Read Aloud

- Describe Camilla. What is she doing? How does she feel? Why does she feel this way?
- What does it mean to “fit in”? Who are the people she is “trying to impress”?
- Why does Camilla scream?
- Who comes to examine Camilla?
- Describe Dr. Bumble.
- Is he able to figure out what is causing the stripes? What does he recommend she do?
- What happens when Camilla goes to school? What do the kids say to her? How does this make Camilla feel?
- Why does the school principal call Camilla’s parents? How does Camilla feel when she is sent home?
- What does she think would make her feel better? Why doesn’t she want to do this?
- Who comes to visit Camilla the next day?
- Describe the Specialists.
- Are they able to figure out what is wrong with her? What do they give her to try and make her stripes and other patterns go away?
- Does this medicine work?
- Describe how Camilla changes after taking the different colored pills.
- Who does Dr. Bumble bring next to try and help her?
- What is an expert? Describe the Experts.
- What happens to Camilla as they try to determine what is causing her skin to change? Are the Experts able to help Camilla?
- Who arrives outside Camilla’s house?
- Once people hear about Camilla’s situation, who offers to help?
- What is a Therapist? What happens to Camilla when she tries to help her?
- How does Camilla’s mom feel after none of these people are able to help?
- Who comes next? Describe this person. Why does he describe her “as sweet and plump as a strawberry”?

- What does the old woman say is going on with Camilla? What does she recommend giving Camilla?
- Does Camilla want to try this? Why does she finally decide she will try it?
- What happens once Camilla eats the lima beans? What does it mean to be “cured”?
- After she eats the lima beans “Camilla wasn’t quite the same.” What does that mean?

Inference Questions During the Read Aloud

- Look at the first picture. How does Camilla look in this picture? Camilla is “worried” and “fretting”, does the picture show this? Are there other words on the page that the picture helps describe? When the Specialists are examining her, what words on that page does the picture show the doctors doing?
- How do the pictures in the book add to the story?
 - The narrator says that “The next day was a disaster.” How do the pictures when she is at school show what a disaster it is?
 - On the page where Camilla becomes a multi-colored pill, the narrator says when she woke up that morning she felt “different”. Look at the picture. What do you think she is feeling that makes her say she feels different?
- On the page where the old woman gives Camilla the lima beans, look at the old woman’s purse. There is a caterpillar on it. Do you recognize it? What book is it from? [From Eric Carle’s, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*]. The caterpillar changes from a caterpillar into what? The Very Hungry Caterpillar transforms from a caterpillar into a butterfly. Does this give you a clue as to whether the beans will help her change back into herself?

Think Aloud Questions to Make Connections After the Read Aloud

- What is the big problem in this story?
- Are there any words in the story that do a good job of describing how Camilla is feeling as her appearance changes?
- What illustrations help you know the other character’s feelings in the book and what they think of Camilla’s situation?
- What does “bumble” mean? Do you think the author used the name Dr. Bumble give any clues as to how successful he will be at finding a cure for Camilla’s bad case of stripes?
- Have you ever felt nervous about going back to school after summer break?
- When you are stressed or nervous, does your body ever react in a certain way?
- Have you ever heard someone comment on how another classmate looks in a teasing way? Did you notice how that person reacted or felt when they heard this comment? Did you laugh or say anything when you heard this?
- Has anyone ever commented on how you look in a teasing way? How did this make you feel?
- Do you worry about what people think about you? Has there ever been something you wanted to do, but didn’t because you were afraid someone might make fun of you?
- Has there been a time that you realized you could still do that thing, and you didn’t care what people said?
- How is Camilla different at the end of the story then at the beginning?
- What is the lesson in this story?